

NINETY-SEVENTH YEAR.

SATURDAY, MORNING, DECEMBER 24, 1904.

PRICE In St. Louis, One Cent.  
Outside St. Louis, Two Cents.  
On Trains, Three Cents.CRITICAL EVENTS IN BLAIR'S  
LIFE TOLD BY INTIMATE FRIENDSJames Campbell, David R. Francis,  
Thomas S. McPheeters and  
Murray Carleton on the  
Stand in Insurance Case  
—Broker a Reluctant  
Witness.

## FINANCIAL AID WAS GIVEN.

David R. Francis, James Campbell, Murray Carleton and Thomas S. McPheeters were the principal witnesses who testified before the Special Master in Chancery in the Blair insurance hearing yesterday.

Mr. Campbell was placed on the stand in the afternoon. He was one of the men who had been an intimate friend of the late James L. Blair, and the things which he told came forth reluctantly and frequently the witness had to be admonished to talk louder.

In the community Mr. Campbell has been known as a shrewd dealer, but few knew philanthropy was one of his traits. When his friend Blair was involved in difficulties, however, he came to the front to aid him, and gave him a practically unsecured loan of \$50,000.

According to the testimony of Mr. Campbell, Blair went to his office and told him that certain troubles had overtaken him which threatened to ruin his prospects and future practice as a lawyer. Mr. Campbell asked him as to the nature of them and Blair replied that his brother had committed forgeries which if exposed would ruin the Blair name.

Mr. Campbell asked him what amount it would require to tide him over his money troubles, and the attorney replied that \$50,000 would do it. Forthwith Campbell let him have \$50,000 without more material collateral than Blair's word that he would pay.

Mr. Campbell was a reluctant witness. It was only the close and adroit questioning of the attorneys for the plaintiff company that elicited his replies. He spoke in a low tone of voice and only when ordered by the master did he speak up so that he could be heard throughout the room.

## LOANED \$50,000. UNSECURED.

The substance of Mr. Campbell's evidence was that he had been a resident of St. Louis for thirty-eight years. He had known Blair intimately for fifteen years. His first close relationship with the deceased attorney was when Blair went to him one day in 1900, told him of his monetary difficulties and asked him for a loan of \$50,000.

"I was willing to let him have the money," said Mr. Campbell, "and when he spoke of collateral I said I had sufficient faith in his ability to pay me back from the proceeds of his practice to be perfectly satisfied. Yes, he spoke to me of forgeries which he said had been committed by his brother, Carey."

Mr. Campbell testified to earlier dealings with Mr. Blair, which involved mortgage on his country place near Kirkwood. Blair went to him and said he had borrowed money on the property, but did not want the fact to become publicly known. The original amount loaned on the property was \$50,000. Of this amount, he said, Blair had paid back \$20,000 and he wanted \$30,000 more to take up the remainder. Campbell, on a note and deed of trust, let him have \$30,000.

The most dramatic incident in the hearing came up in the questioning of the witness regarding this deed of trust and note. John F. Lee objected to nearly every question concerning them, and finally Judge McKelhan, representing the insurance company, arose and in heroic language said that the time had passed for quibbling.

"We are trying to give facts and show that these instruments were forgeries. The aim of the defense seems to be to suppress facts."

Master Schofield so nattered the incident that good feeling was restored, and Judge McKelhan apologized for what he termed his haste.

## BLAIR REPAID AMOUNT.

The full amount which Mr. Campbell loaned Blair was repaid. He received the repayment after Blair's quitting St. Louis.



Who was the leading witness in the Blair insurance hearing yesterday.

Insurance policies on Blair's life were given him to cover the note. The mortgage on the Kirkwood property was taken up by a quitclaim deed signed by Mrs. Blair.

Former Governor David R. Francis occupied the stand during the early part of yesterday's session. His evidence was delivered in the usual lucid style which characterizes the World's Fair President's communications.

Mr. Francis traced Blair's connection with the Louisiana Purchase Exposition Company. In his capacity of General Counsel of the company his association with Mr. Francis was close.

When the rumors discrediting Blair's honesty came out he investigated the charges. The witness testified that a Director of the Exposition Company had told him that the charges against Blair were true. Asked who that Director was, Mr. Francis refused to disclose his name.

The direct question was objected to by Attorney Lee, and the objection was sustained by the Master. In endeavoring to get the name of this Director the attorneys for the plaintiff resorted to various means. They learned the number of Directors serving on the board, and asked President Francis to give their names.

Their questions, however, did not bring out the desired information. Murray Carleton, president of the United Railways Company, was examined. He stated that he was present at the meeting of the Executive Committee of the World's Fair when Blair's resignation was accepted. He told of having known Blair during many years, and of his money transactions with him.

One day in 1903 Blair telephoned Mr. Carleton in the morning and asked him to come by his office. Mr. Carleton made the call and Blair told him that he wished to borrow \$30,000. Mr. Carleton said he did not have that amount at his disposal, but could let him have \$50,000.

A note for \$50,000 was drawn by Mr. Carleton and the proceeds given to Blair. When the rumors of Blair's dishonesty came out Mr. Carleton took up the note, which was payable at the Mercantile Trust Company. After Blair's death Mr. Carleton was paid back the full amount of his loan by Mr. Lee, Blair's executor.

Asked if he had an account at the Mercantile Trust Company, Mr. Carleton replied that he had not, but that "this credit was fairly good at that institution."

The most interesting fact developed by Mr. Campbell's testimony was that at one time Mr. Blair had been offered the presidency of the St. Louis Transit Company, with a salary of \$25,000 a year. The offer was made soon after the famous street car strike.

Blair accepted the offer, but was never made president because the conditions that caused the offer to be made adjusted themselves, and Mr. Carleton, who was filling the office, agreed to continue in it longer.

Mr. McPheeters, who was a lifelong friend of Blair, occupied the stand for more than an hour. His evidence was given in the form of a narrative of all the events of Blair's career after his crimes had been committed. Mr. McPheeters came to Blair's aid with money and gave him good advice.

The hearing was adjourned until next Wednesday at 3 p. m.

eral trust-regulating law. Every friend gained in the Senate for the President's programme is regarded as a needed acquisition, for that body will defend him if it can be done.

Senator Stephen B. Elkins is one of the men in Washington who are for Kerns first and last. "He is the man for Missouri," said Senator Elkins the other day. "None other could come here and find the connections and associations which he can command."

## NATURAL GAS STRUCK

IN HEART OF ST. JOSEPH.

Flame Shoots Up Ten Feet in the Air at Huttig-Moss Plant From Six-Inch Artesian Well.

## REPUBLICAN SPECIAL.

St. Joseph, Mo., Dec. 23.—A strong flow of natural gas was struck today by the Huttig-Moss Manufacturing Company while sinking an artesian well near their plant at Fourth and Renick streets.

When a lighted match was applied to the tube a column of flame shot ten feet into the air. The bore is 6 inches in diameter, and is 62 feet and contains 50 feet of water, through which the gas forced its way.

Considering this fact, it is believed the volume of gas is sufficient to be of considerable commercial value. An investigation will be made by an expert as soon as possible.

Frank J. Moss, member of the firm which made the discovery, was a member of the Missouri Commission to the World's Fair.

## BURGLAR ASSAULTS WOMAN.

Mrs. Rose Dodd Attacked by Robber in Dark Hallway.

While coming from the basement to the first floor in her home at No. 214 East Marcus avenue Thursday evening, Mrs. Rose Dodd met a man in the dark hallway, who assaulted her by knocking her down and bruising her head. While she was dazed by the assault the burglar escaped from the house, jumping off the rear porch.

A search of the premises resulted in finding that the house had been ransacked and \$25 in gold was missing. The robber evidently wanted money only, as jewelry and clothing were untouched where he had searched. Owing to the sudden assault, Mrs. Dodd was unable to give any description of the man.

ANTI-BUTLERISM  
TO BE THE ISSUEBy Expelling Boss's Followers  
City Central Committee De-  
clines Policy for Spring.

## WELLS MAY HEAD CITY TICKET.

Leaders of Reform Movement  
Claim Big Majority in Ward  
Representation—Cities Gain  
Delegates for Convention.

By the action of the City Central Committee in expelling four members Thursday night, the leaders of the Democratic party clearly defined the issues for the spring campaign.

Anti-Butlerism will be the foundation for the ticket and platform that will be presented, and already the summing up of the probable Butler strength has been begun. The fight has been carried into the factious camp and several politicians, in discussing the latest turn of affairs yesterday, declared that the winning power of the former leaders would be clearly shown before the issue ever reached the polls.

"Granting that Butler can swing eight wards," one said during the discussion, "the anti-butlerists still will have such a majority in the City Convention that no Butler men would be able to get on the ticket or prevent any selection that the other leaders may want."

Based on the number of delegates to the City Convention on the last vote for Governor, according to the primary law, the Butler wards will cut small figures, the work against Folk at the polls acting now as a boomerang. Each ward is allowed a delegate for every 200 votes cast for Governor, and also a delegate-at-large. The Democrats take the vote for Folk and the Republicans have their rails on the vote for Walbridge. If the Butler followers influenced any votes against Folk they weakened their representation.

Counting the Fifth, Sixth, Fourteenth, Seventeenth, Twenty-second, Twenty-third, Twenty-fourth and Twenty-fifth wards as certain for the Butler faction, they will have a total of 84 delegates out of 37, or barely more than one-fourth. Taking the four wards of the deceased committee, a representation of 23 is counted in their favor.

## ROUGH SLEDDING FOR BUTLERITES.

In the face of these figures, the anti-Butler workers say that there will be some rough sledding for the factious, and that the Republicans may be naturally looked to as their allies. There is not enough show of strength, it is said, to warrant any independent movement on the part of the Butler men, and the spirit of revenge will lead them into other alignments.

Taking the vote for Folk as the basis, and figuring one delegate for every 200 ballots, and adding a delegate at large, the Democratic representation by wards will be as follows:

Wards	Folk	Wal-Dele-
First	10	18
Second	10	18
Third	10	18
Fourth	10	18
Fifth	10	18
Sixth	10	18
Seventh	10	18
Eighth	10	18
Ninth	10	18
Tenth	10	18
Eleventh	10	18
Twelfth	10	18
Thirteenth	10	18
Fourteenth	10	18
Fifteenth	10	18
Sixteenth	10	18
Seventeenth	10	18
Eighteenth	10	18
Nineteenth	10	18
Twentieth	10	18
Twenty-first	10	18
Twenty-second	10	18
Twenty-third	10	18
Twenty-fourth	10	18
Twenty-fifth	10	18
Twenty-sixth	10	18
Twenty-seventh	10	18
Twenty-eighth	10	18
Twenty-ninth	10	18
Thirtieth	10	18
At Large	10	18
Totals	320	510

In St. Joseph the number of delegates it became apparent that the cities will have a large representation in the next State convention. St. Louis, Kansas City and St. Joseph gave bulk majorities, while many of the counties went for Walbridge. And in other usual Democratic figures were reduced. In this manner the cities have gained delegates and will wield much power in the next assembly.

## WELLS MAY HEAD CITY TICKET.

Just how far the Butler followers are going with a second city ticket is controversial, but those opposed to them are already at work getting lines out for general candidates in the spring.

Broadly, the talk has come around that Mayor Rolla Wells probably will head the ticket if he will consent, and the platform will be for another clean, businesslike administration. It is said that the Mayor has not yet given his consent to re-election, but this indication is that he will be called on by a committee of business men and asked to consider favorably.

Candidates for other City Hall offices are springing up daily, and it is said that the Collector's position is being looked upon as longingly by three. Fred Hammer, Jr., the present Collector, has been conducting his campaign in the most aggressive manner for re-nomination on a business administration ticket, while Sheriff Joseph Blockmann and Justice Frank M. Kleider are appearing as rivals.

Bernard Dickers, Auditor, is preparing for a race for re-nomination, while it is understood that Restler Fitzgerald is also looking to retain the office for another four years. So far, in fact, only one self-proclaimed candidate has come out with the statement that he is not seeking re-nomination, and that is John J. O'Brien, Assessor.

## ILLINOIS TAX RATE

INCREASED THREE CENTS.

Fifty-Five Cents on the \$100 Valuation Assessed One Year Ago It Was Fifty-Two Cents.

Springfield, Ill., Dec. 23.—Fifty-five cents on the one hundred dollars valuation is the Illinois tax rate for 1905. The rate was retained in accordance with law by Governor Yates, State Auditor McCullough and State Treasurer Buse.

The total amount of taxes to be raised for State purposes this year is \$5,500,000, of which \$4,250,000 is for the general revenue fund and \$1,250,000 for the school fund. The tax rate one year ago was 52 cents on the \$100 valuation.

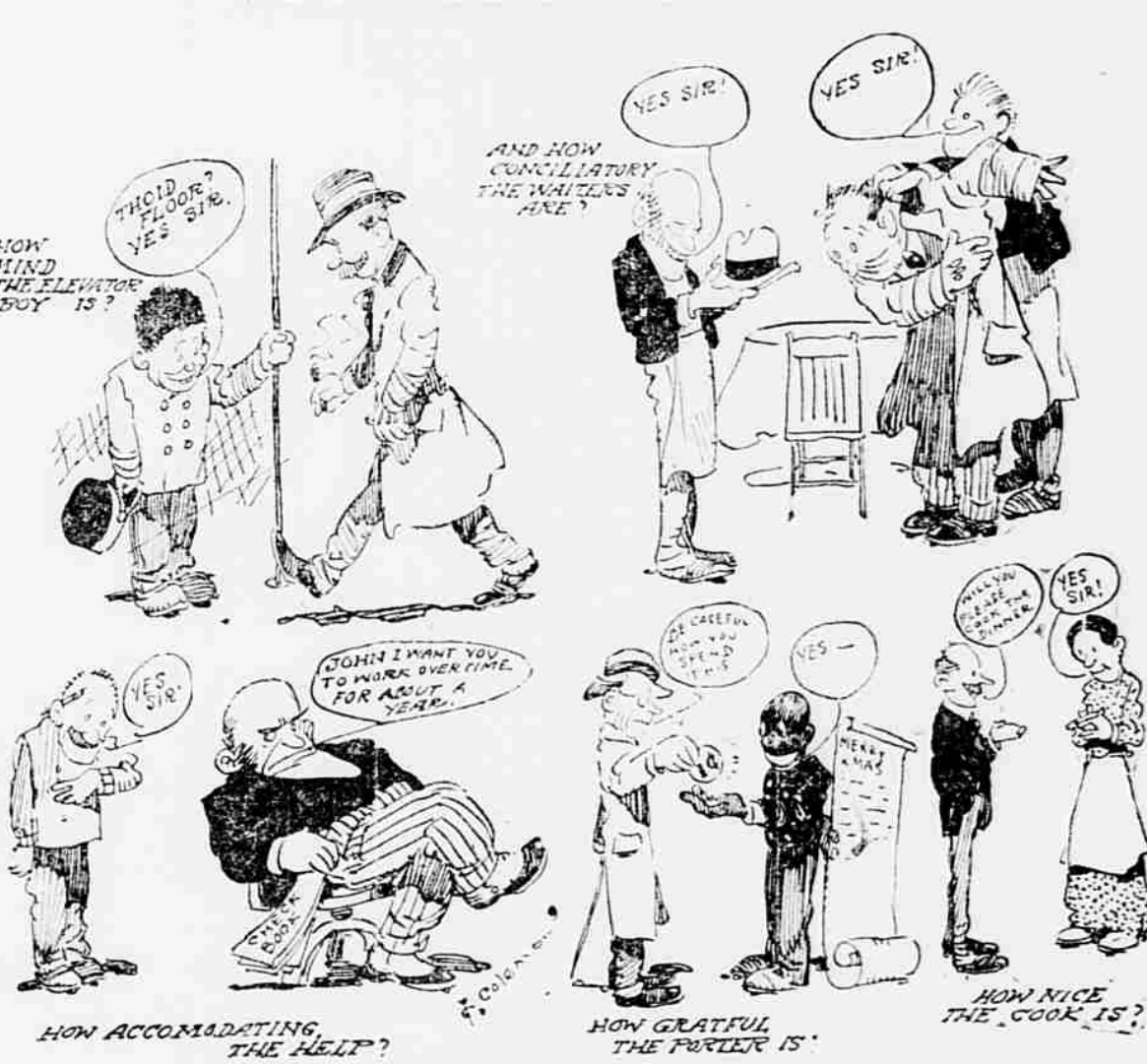
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Many of them served the country during the

## THE DAY BEFORE CHRISTMAS.



## HAVE YOU EVER NOTICED—

D. P. DYER ENTERS  
SENATORIAL RACEUnited States District Attorney  
Makes Formal Announcement  
of Candidacy in Letter.

## ST. CHARLES COUNTY IN LINE.

Representative R. D. Silver  
Writes to Prominent Repub-  
lican Pledging His Support  
—Parker Still Determined.

Colonel D. P. Dyer, United States District Attorney, one of the best-known Republicans in the State, formally announced his position in the senatorial race yesterday by coming out with a letter which placed him among the candidates for the honor.

His name has been connected with the contest by rumors for some time, but it was not until receiving a communication from R. D. Silver, Representative at-large of St. Charles County, that he made a definite announcement. Colonel Dyer is a personal friend of President Roosevelt, and is considered a staunch anti-Kerns man. Colonel Dyer is also an associate of National Committeeman Atkins.

Representative Silver addressed Colonel Dyer, stating that the Republicans of St. Charles County were practically unanimous in their support of him. Colonel Dyer answered with the following letter:

St. Louis, Mo., Dec. 23, 1904.—R. D. Silver, St. Charles, Mo. My Dear Sir:—Your very kind letter of the 20th inst. was duly received. It is a pleasure to me to hear of the support which you are giving to a man who is so well known and so respected in your county.

In any support that I have given to the principles of the Republican party, it was because I believed that their crystallization into law would be for the good of all the people. Any service that I ever rendered to the Republic was because of what I considered a plain duty, and not for the hope of personal reward.

The election of a United States Senator is an important duty imposed by the people upon their representatives, but it is not the only important duty that the present Legislature will have to perform.

If the promises made to the people during the recent campaign by the Republican candidates for the Legislature are honestly kept, then we can confidently look for an improvement by the people at the election of 1905. If they are not kept, there will be a scouring for cover, and the cry of "victory follows for himself" will be heard in every part of the State.

Disposal of the senatorship in the interest of the people and for the lasting good of the Republic, the Republican party desires to see the election of a man who will be a true representative of the people, and who will be a true friend of the Republic.

The Silver letter, which brought the announcement, partly reviews Colonel Dyer's public and party service, and states that he would do much toward holding Missouri in the Republican column. The letter follows:

St. Charles, Mo., Dec. 23, 1904.—Colonel D. P. Dyer, St. Louis, Mo. Dear Sir:—I desire, as far as it may be in my power, to faithfully and honestly represent the people of St. Charles County in the lower branch of the General Assembly, to which I was elected in November last. I am anxious to voice their wishes in the vote I shall cast on United States Senator.

Believing, as I do, that the Republicans of my county are practically unanimous in desiring my election to the Senate, I write this letter to ascertain whether or not you are or will be a candidate for this high honor.

The Republicans of St. Charles County recognize and appreciate the long, unswerving and faithful service you have rendered the State and the Republican party. They have known you from your boyhood, and have watched with pride your career.

Many of them served the country during the

MUNICIPAL PLANT  
SAVES CITY MONEYLighting System, Started in  
Wells's Administration, Effects  
Saving of \$23,000 Yearly.

## FIVE BUILDINGS ILLUMINATED.

Chief Engineer Wood Believes  
Power-House Capable of Sup-  
plying All Needs at Start-  
ling Reduction in Cost.

To heat and operate the municipal lighting plant, the new City Hall for the last two years it has cost the city an average of \$11,526.25. The amount of current generated by this plant, it paid by the city at its contract price of 10 cents a kilowatt hour, would be \$22,000 a year.

A report submitted to Hiram Phillips, chairman of the City Hall Commission, by Chief Engineer J. W. Wood gives some interesting facts in connection with the wise provision of the municipal plant during Mayor Wells's administration.

Municipal ownership of electric gas, waterworks and other public utilities, was made a political issue in St. Louis in 1901. The Democratic party in a strong platform declared for the measure, and the entire ticket, headed by Rolla Wells for Mayor, was elected.

In less than three months after Mayor Wells's election the Municipal Assembly passed an ordinance appropriating \$25,000 for a new municipal electric plant at the new City Hall. At that time the city was paying 12 cents a kilowatt hour for current. At the present time it costs the city a percentage of more than 2 cents.

Bids were offered and by July, 1903, the plant was in operation, furnishing light to the new City Hall, the old City Hall, Four Courts, the Courthouse and Engine No. 6, and heat to the new City Hall.

Apart from the Waterworks system, the City Hall lighting plant was the first effort at municipal ownership undertaken by any other administration in St. Louis.

NET SAVING OF \$23,000.  
An accurate system of data sheets was compiled by Chief Engineer Wood showing the cost of labor, fuel, repairs or additions, the amount of current supplied to each building for light or power purposes, the amount of water evaporated in the boilers, fuel burned and the ashes therefrom.

This data was forwarded to the president of the City Hall Commission, headed by Hiram Phillips, and composed of Mayor Wells, Joseph L. Hornsby, President of the City Council, Andrew Gatzert, Jr., Speaker of the House of Delegates, Controller James V. Plaver and Building Commissioner George U. Helmberger.

The average cost of heating the City Hall building before the plant was installed was \$11,526.25. Deducting this amount from the total expense of heating the main building and furnishing light to the others, \$2,517.77 represents the cost of operating the lighting plant, whereas the city formerly was forced to pay \$23,044.02 for the same purpose.

This means a net saving to the city, with the estimated depreciation of the plant, of \$23,000 for the twelve months ending July 31, 1904. At that rate the city will have received back the \$25,000 cost of the plant, with interest and depreciation in eighteen months, after which this plant will earn for the city approximately \$23,000 a year over and above expenses.

The engines are of the latest type and capable, Mr. Wood believes, of accommodating the big increase in the number of lights now used in the new City Hall.

## POPE RECEIVES O'CONNELL.

His Holiness Interested in Ital-  
ians in America.

Rome, Dec. 23.—The Pope today received in private audience the Right Reverend W. H. O'Connell, Bishop of Portland, Me. When O'Connell entered the presence of the Pontiff the latter embraced him, saying he knew he had for many years been rector of the American College here.

The Pope inquired about the different nationalities composing the emigrants, feeling especially with the need of caring for them in a spirit of charity.

He also spoke of the great progress made by Catholicism, and was most pleased to see its development and the attachment of the faithful to the Holy See.

SIOUX CITY FIRE  
CAUSES LOSS OF  
TWO MILLIONSTwo Entire Blocks Destroyed  
in Retail District and Flames  
Were Still Spreading at  
Midnight.

## OMAHA SENDS AN ENGINE.

Intense Heat Keeps Large Hol-  
iday Crowd at a Distance and  
Prevents Firemen From  
Doing Effectual Work.

## OUTSIDE COMMUNICATION CUT.

Wires of Both Telegraph Com-  
panies Are Severed, but Cir-  
cuit Is Finally Established  
in Roundabout Way Over  
Telephone Lines.

Sioux City, Ia., Dec. 23.—A fire which started just before 3 o'clock to-night has destroyed two entire city blocks in the center of the retail district, entailing a loss estimated at \$2,000,000.

Assistance was sought from outside cities, and an engine and other equipment was started from Omaha at 10 o'clock.

The burned buildings include the Tribune building, three banks, the Western Union Telegraph Company office and a dozen other large mercantile concerns.

The entire territory between Jackson and Pierce and Third and Fourth streets had been practically consumed by 11 o'clock, and the fire was still spreading rapidly, with the firemen unable to secure control.

Both of the telegraph companies' wires were all lost before 10 o'clock, temporarily cutting off communications with the outside cities. Later telephone wires were used over a circuitous route.

The fire started in the Pelletier department store, located in the Toy building, a six-story stone block, at the corner of Fourth and Jackson streets, occupied also by the First National Bank.

FLAMES SPREAD RAPIDLY.  
The entire building, together with its contents was destroyed, but before the flames could secure control of the flames they had spread also to the Massachusetts building on the west, another large, six-story structure.

With the heat sufficiently intense to keep the gathered holiday shoppers a block away, the firemen were unable to get near enough to do any material good in stopping the ravages of the flames, which rapidly spread to the westward, assisted by a brisk wind.

In the course of their flight the flames were communicated to a score of other business places, located in the buildings to the west of the Toy block. Among these were the following, which were entirely destroyed:

The Massachusetts building, occupied by the several large stores, including the Gillette Hardware Company, the Pullman Hotel, Johnson &amp; Aronson, clothing and furnishings, Orkin Bros., ladies' furnishings; George Conway, wholesale tobacco and cigars, and the American Express Company.

Several families lived in the rear of the building, but so far as known all the occupants escaped.

COMMERCIAL BLOCK BURNS.  
The next building destroyed was the Commercial block. In this structure were located the City National Bank, J. J. Prugh, grocer; Wardfield-Pratt-Hawell Company, a wholesale grocer; Peavy & Nash, furniture; Dow Clothing Company, Hahn & Hahn, shoes; Theodore Beckler Tailoring Company; Ward Hardware Company and the Western Union Telegraph Company.

The wires of both the Postal and Western Union Telegraph companies were in the path of the flames, and in addition to burning the Western Union office, also destroyed nearly a block of cables connecting its system of wires with the main office.

The Postal Company's office was not in the burned district, but its wires were destroyed. The telephone company had a great number of wires destroyed, but was able to furnish partial communication to outside cities.

The fire was gotten under control about 11:30, after practically two entire blocks had been burned over. One tenant was killed.

SPRINGFIELD STORE BURNS  
ENTAILING \$30,000 LOSS.Large Furniture Establishment,  
Filled With Holiday Goods De-  
stroyed in Heart of City.

Springfield, Ill., Dec. 23.—Fire early this evening almost totally destroyed the large furniture store of George F. Bish, entailing a loss estimated at \$30,000.

Owing to the inflammable condition of the stock the flames spread rapidly and were exceedingly difficult to fight. Coupled with this danger the firemen were delayed in getting their apparatus in operation and for a time the adjoining buildings were seriously threatened.

After an hour's fighting, however, the firemen had the blaze under control, although the interior of the structure was still burning late at night.

The establishment is located in the heart of the business district. It is a three-story brick building, built in two wings and facing two streets. All three stories were packed with holiday stock, most of which is a total loss. The roof collapsed early in the fire and later the floors fell, piling all the furniture in a heap in the middle of the great furnace.

The cause of the flames has not been accounted for.